

**NNLL 2025 Season**

**8U Softball Rules and Guidelines**

Guidelines for the Season

* Instructional softball: Introduction of player pitch. Scores are recorded; standings are not recorded.
* For players League Age 6-8. Players league age 6 MUST have one year experience in NNLL.
* Practices at Wild Rose Park; Peregrine Park; other fields identified by NNLL.
* Games every Saturday or Sunday; second midweek game halfway thru the season
* Home games at Peregrine Park; Wild Rose Park; NNRP Field 5, NNRP Field 1
* Away games will also be played against neighboring leagues TBD
* 11” softballs used for games

Rules of the Game

* Games are 90 minutes or six (6) innings; whichever comes first
	+ During playoffs, play concludes when there is a winner; sunset rule applies
* No new inning after 90 minutes from official game start time.
* Home team occupies the 3rd base dugout.
* Score will be kept by home team using GameChanger
* No more than five runs can be scored in an inning, regardless of how many outs are made
* Teams will play with as many players as they have on that day
* Managers will exchange lineups before start of game
* Teams may change positions on the field, but the batting lineup must stay the same
* Continuous batting order; everyone bats regardless if they play in the field during that inning
* Player pitch at 35 foot mound/pitching rubber beginning March 24
	+ Coach MUST pitch from the circle; pitcher must stay in the circle if a coach comes in to pitch
* There are no walks for batters.
* Count starts at 1-0; after three (3) pitched balls from the pitcher, the coach comes out to pitch.
	+ Coach pitch count includes any strikes thrown by the player pitcher
	+ Player pitcher can strike out a batter
* Maximum of three (3) coach pitches; the batter either strikes out or puts the ball in play.
	+ If the final coach pitch isn’t quality, player gets an additional pitch (at umpire discretion)
	+ Maximum of five coach pitches during initial Coach-pitch only games
* A foul ball/tip on the final pitch allows for another pitch.
* League Age 6 players can only hit off of coach pitch.
	+ Even if they turn 7 during the season!
* The coach of the batting team must throw from the pitching circle and maintain a somewhat normal pitching motion and velocity.
* No umpires; balls and strikes, and defensive outs will be called and recorded by a single (1) coach behind the catcher with their defensive team.
	+ During playoffs there may be a home plate umpire who will call balls and strikes; umpire can call safe or out if they are able to see the play; otherwise, coaches call safe and out on 1st-3rd base if the umpire asks for assistance
	+ Teams can not have a coach on the field calling outs
* Five (5) warm-up pitches between innings
* If a player pitch hits the batter without the ball touching the ground, the batter is awarded first base unless the batter feels she can continue the at bat
* If a pitcher hits three (3) batters, she must be pulled for the rest of the game
* No player can pitch more than two (2) innings in a game
* Teams will have a catcher and plays can be made at home
* No stealing or advancing on wild pitch or passed ball
* Leading off is permitted only after the pitch crosses the plate
* Sliding is allowed and encouraged
* **Make a Play Rule**: The runner is only allowed to advance one (1) base on an overthrow. When a ball is hit to the outfield, the runner may advance until a player has control of the ball in the infield. At that point, the runner may advance to the base she is running to and stop. If she is tagged out, then she is out.
	+ Infield is considered the dirt at Peregrine and Wild Rose and three feet behind the bases at Field 5 and Field 1
	+ Control is the ball is in her glove or in her throwing hand; it is not a player bobbling a ball or picking up a ball
	+ If a player chooses to throw the ball to anyone BUT the pitcher, that is considered a live ball and players may continue to advance; throws to the pitcher are considered control of the ball regardless if the pitcher catches it or it is overthrown
	+ Pitcher fielding a ball must make a play- either throwing to a base or getting back into the circle; play can continue until she makes a play
* **Mandatory Play Rule:** everyone must get at least one (1) at bat and two (2) innings in the field per game.
* Players must play an infield position (e.g., P, C, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, SS) for at least one full defensive inning, per game.
	+ Players are not required to play an outfield position each game
* Up to 10 players on a field at one time (this includes 4 outfielders, NOT a “shortfielder” between 1st and 2nd).
* No player shall sit out more than 1 defensive inning at a time
* Offensive coaches are allowed on the field to coach 1st and 3rd base; one defensive coach is allowed on the field to serve as an umpire behind the plate
* Managers communicate with one another or the umpire; assistant coaches may relay messages and questions to their manager

Field Prep - Before & After

* Before each game, the home team chalks the first and third base foul lines and puts out the bases.
* Bases are 60 feet apart
* Pitcher’s rubber is 35 feet from home plate.
* The Pitcher's circle needs to be chalked with an 8 foot radius from the front side of the plate.
* After the last game on that day, away team puts bases back in the equipment box and rakes/drags the infield dirt
* If playing at another league’s field (e.g., Rio Linda), that home team will clean up the field after the game.
* Each team is responsible for cleaning out their own dugout after the game.
* Visiting team parents must clean their own bleacher area.

**NOTE:** Any rules not specifically addressed below are governed by the 2025 Official Little League rules.